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The CIA has fired one of its security officers after he apparently sorted through sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee, an agency spokesman has confirmed.

Herbert Hetu, the spokesman, said Sunday night that Regis Blahut was dismissed from his job after he was found to have picked up files on the committee's investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"He saw the committee's files and picked them up, which was dumb," Hetu said.

Blahut was assigned to guard CIA documents being used by the committee in its investigation of Kennedy's death.

After an internal CIA investigation of the incident, Hetu said, "we were totally convinced" Blahut was not encouraged "from outside or inside the CIA" to examine the documents.

"That would be the immediate question, but we felt certain it was just a matter of curiosity and poor judgment," Hetu said. "We dismissed the guy and that was it."

The Washington Post said today that fingerprint checks on the documents led to Blahut.

Quoting informed sources, the newspaper said the incident last summer involved "surreptitious entry of a combination safe at the committee's offices."

The safe held physical evidence of Kennedy's assassination such as the autopsy photos and the bullet that is said to have wounded both Kennedy and John Connally, who at the time was the governor of Texas.

The sources told the Post that apparently nothing was taken from the safe.

Blahut could not be reached for comment.

He was quoted by the Post as acknowledging that his fingerprints had been found on some of the documents but insisting there was an explanation for it.

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He denied any wrongdoing and declined further comment, citing a CIA "oath of secrecy," the newspaper said.

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